

Sunday's Zonta fundraiser hopes to capitalize on fun

BY VALERIE HILL, RECORD STAFF

Members of Zonta Club of Kitchener Waterloo really know how to have a good time and it's these high spirits they are hoping to share at their next fundraiser, A Recipe for Entertaining, which takes place on Sunday, Nov. 7.

"One of the reasons we do this is to have fun," enthuses Jackie Wendland, co-chair of the event. "Laughter is so good for you. And we have great speakers to help us to do that."

The bi-annual event takes a different form every year. In 2008, the focus was on healthy lifestyles. This year, members will be featuring home entertainment, with some high profile and of course fun presenters such as *Bite Me* cookbook authors Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat as well as style expert Lynn Spence from CityLine TV, *Around the House* and *Fashion Friday*. The event's emcee is Luisa D'Amato, Waterloo Region Record reporter, food columnist and co-author of *30-Minute Miracle*.

"We hope to raise \$10,000 for our service fund," said co-chair Fran Fisher. "A lot of the charities we deal with don't get a lot of press or funding dollars." She added that not one cent of the money raised will be used for administration.

Zonta is a women's service club that supports charitable organizations which in turn support women and children in the community, organizations such as St. Monica House, Focus for Ethnic Women, Mary's Place and ROOF (Reaching Our Outdoor Friends), among others. Organizations must apply for funding and next spring, a Zonta committee will announce which organizations they will support.

Their 2008 fundraiser netted \$6,600 for these organizations.

Wendland gave a rundown of the day's lineup, which includes the *Bite Me* authors, sisters with a sense of humour about food.

"They are just wonderful to be with," she said. "They call themselves huge eaters and skilled feeders."

The book with rather seductive titles, such as *Grab Me* (appetizers), *Undress Me* (salads) and *Respect Me* (vegetables) was endorsed as a Heather's top pick for 2009, a label of approval by Chapters-Indigo's Heather Reisman founder and chief executive of the book store chain.

"They're going to do various appetizers and nibblies," said Wendland.

Belinda Gallagher, from the Royal Botanical Gardens, will demonstrate floral arrangements. The finished pieces will be donated to a silent auction at the event.

Of course a party wouldn't be a party without interesting drinks. Presented by the Martini Club, professional mixologists Michelle Hunt and Laura Panter who will demonstrate the finer points of serving swanky beverages.

"There's so much focus on martinis and mixed drinks are becoming popular," said Wendland. "They're (Martini Club) one of the best in catering."

Stylist Spence will explain how to "look like a million bucks" on a budget, said Wendland. As well there will be a silent auction and door prizes.

The whole point of the event is to help hosts and hostesses learn to "take the stress out of entertaining," said Wendland.

A Recipe for Entertaining

Sunday, Nov. 7, 9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Kitchener

Tickets \$75

Ticket information: www.zontakw.com/events.htm

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